

**M I N U T E S**  
**RECESSED MEETING OF THE**  
**EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

**MAY 17, 2011 AT 12:00 P.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM #260, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING**  
**TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

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**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:00 NOON BY CHAIRMAN WIGGINS.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mr. Charlie R. Harrell, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell. Mr. Jonathan Felton

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager, Ms. JoAnne Harrell, Finance Director and Ms. Carolyn Hedgepeth, Clerk to the Board and Mr. Eric Evans, Assistant County Manager.

**2. PRAYER**

Prayer provided by Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

**3. PRESENTATION OF COUNTY MANAGER'S BUDGET MESSAGE**

Mr. Carmon stated that the proposed Budget for FY 11-12 totaled \$59,198,052, which represented a 1% increase over the FY 10-11 budget of \$58,396,773. He said the ad valorem tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 valuation would remain the same. He said the proposed fund balance appropriation was \$5,124,579 with \$550,375 from restricted fund balance for school debt service and \$4,574,204 from general fund.

He said revenues were expected to remain flat along with a decrease in taxable values caused by depreciation, increased exemption to county taxpayers and a reduction in motor vehicle registrations.

He said that the budget was prepared in spite of the uncertainty of the State budget proposals. He said both the Governor and the General Assembly's proposals have revenue and expenditure recommendations that could have negative impacts on the County's budget.

He highlighted the following proposals of the budget:

- Departmental budgets remained the same with only mandated increases.
- State retirement rates increased by .65% for all employees.
- All outside agency appropriations remain the same.
- Employee health insurance increased by 5%.

- General fund debt service increased by \$384,492.
- No proposed salary increase for personnel and vacant positions remain frozen except for public safety and/or revenue producing positions.
- Capital outlay includes minimal expenditures for servers and minor facility renovations. Sheriff car replacements would be revisited in January.
- Solid Waste tipping fees remain the same at \$46.50 per ton.
- Water and Sewer rates will remain the same.
- Fund balance appropriated down to 11%.

**4. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF FY 2011-2012 BUDGET**

**Mr. Felton asked about the school budget request.**

**Mr. Carmon proposed the schools receive the same appropriation as the previous year in spite of the decline in daily student population. He said Edgecombe County Public Schools had lost 100 students this year and Nash Rocky Mount lost 300 students in this fiscal year.**

**Following discussion, Mr. Carmon recommended calling for a public hearing on June 6, 2011 to consider the proposed budget. He also recommended having another meeting the last week in June to adopt the budget.**

**Ms. Harris asked about the Boys and Girls Club budget request. She said that she is on their Board of Directors and is concerned that Edgecombe County's appropriation is less than other entities. She also expressed concern that the clubs in Edgecombe County may close due to lack of funding.**

**Ms. Harrell responded that the Boys and Girls Club had requested \$5,000 and the proposed budget grant \$2,000.**

**Mr. Carmon stated that the Club received additional funding from the County through various grant programs.**

**Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Carmon if staff could make available the entire amount that the outside agencies receive from the county through whatever sources.**

**Mr. Felton asked if we could see the un-audited fund balance as soon as possible to get a more realistic feel for the fund balance percentage.**

**Ms. Harrell said she would be able to provide the un-audited fund balance at the September meeting.**

**5. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. Public hearing to receive public comments relative to the proposed FY 2011-2012 budget on June 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Harrell moved to call for and hold a public hearing on June 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. relative to the proposed FY 2011-12 budget. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- B. Approval of a \$2,344,500 Grant Project Ordinance for engineering and construction of a wastewater collection system in Water and Sewer District No. 5 - New Hope Church Road/Dunbar Road Area.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the grant project ordinance as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- C. Approval of an Engineering Services Agreement for \$328,000 between Edgecombe County and The Wooten Company for Water and Sewer District No. 5, New Hope Church Road/Dunbar Road area Wastewater Collection System.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the engineering services agreement as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- D. Approval of a \$22,000 Engineering Services Agreement amendment No. 3 with The Wooten Company to utilize remaining USDA Rural Development funds to construct 4,200 LF of water main on Draughn Road.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the Engineering Services Agreement amendment NO. 3 as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- E. Approval of a \$22,000 Engineering Services Agreement amendment No. 2 with The Wooten Company for the District No. 5 Sewer to Leggett Project to increase engineering services fees to \$70,272.05. In addition, the grant project ordinance would need to be amended to \$4,808,071.

Ms. Harris moved to approve Engineering Services Agreement amendment No. 2 and amended Grant Project Ordinance as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- F. Approval of Owner-Engineer Agreement between Edgecombe County and The Wooten Company for the Stable Road, Cotton Lane and Hamilton Road Waterline Extensions project for \$42,000.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the Owner-Engineer Agreement between Edgecombe County and The Wooten Company for \$42,000 as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- G. Approval of bid award for vehicles.

**Ms. Harris moved to award the bid awards for the purchase of two vehicles to Doug Henry Chevrolet and Deacon Jones respectively. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.**

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**Mr. Harrell opened discussion regarding comments in the newspaper from the Town of Tarboro about the Edgecombe County Tourism project. He said that the comments were critical of the Board's actions regarding the development of a Tourism Authority. He charged Mr. Carmon with discussing the issue with the Town Manager.**

**Mr. Wiggins also asked Mr. Evans to draft a letter to Representative Joe Tolson asking him to explain why the legislative bill did not reflect what the Board had requested.**

**Mr. Felton opened discussion regarding the merging of Macclesfield water and sewer system into the county system**

**Mr. Carmon said he would follow-up with The Wooten Company.**

**Ms. Powell opened discussion about the Leggett Community having placed a sign that says, "Stop, Look, and Listen at what your County Commissioners have done to your Community." She recommended moving forward with some means to make the lift station in the area more cosmetically appealing. The Board consensus agreed with Ms. Powell and asked the Manager to move forward.**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Felton moved to adjourn the meeting until June 6, 2011. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.**

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